SISTER FOX AND THE ROLLING-PIN

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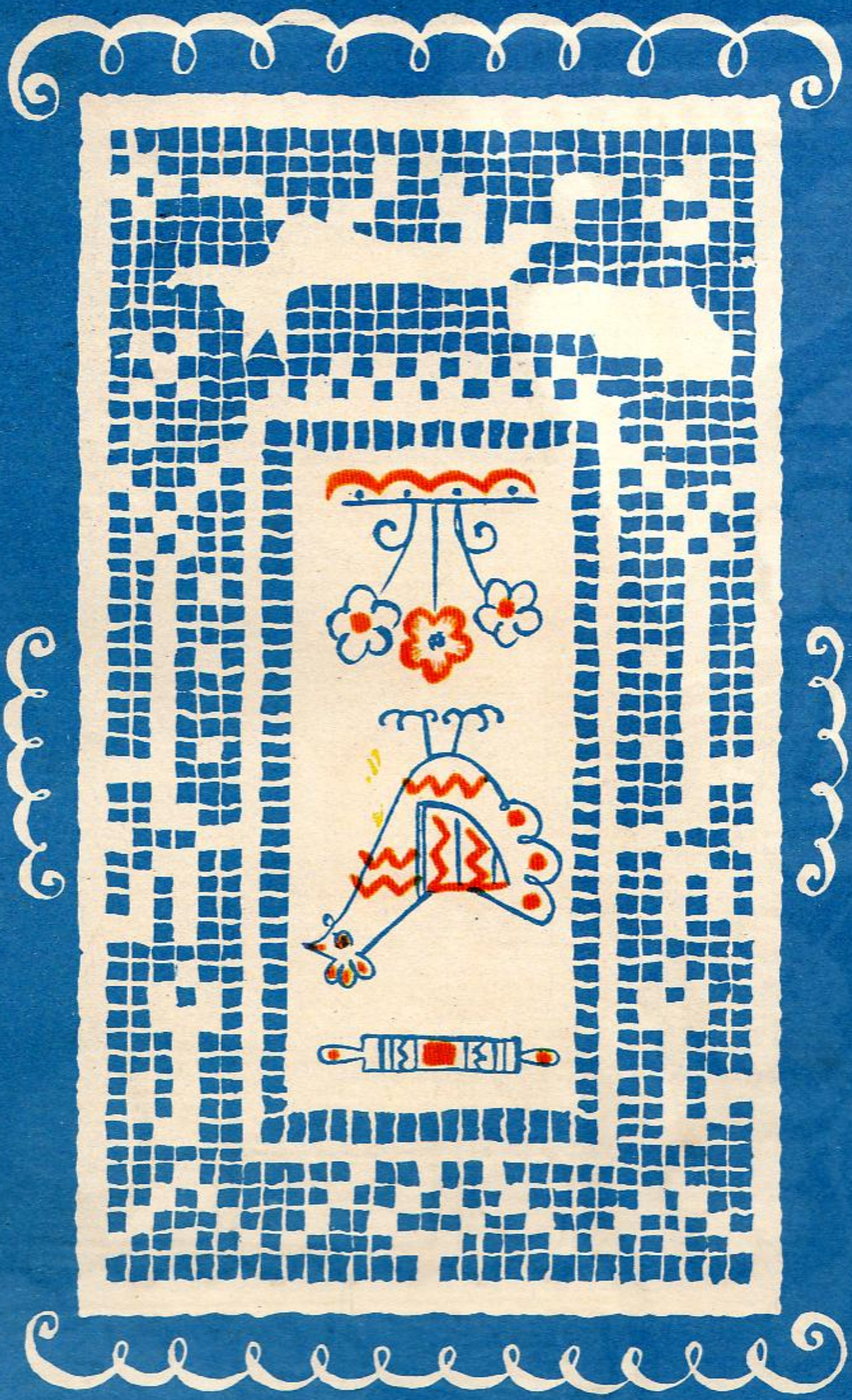

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One day as Sister Fox was walking through the forest she came across a rolling-pin. She picked it up and went on her way. Soon she came to a village and knocked at a cottage,

"Knock-knock-knock."

"Who's there?"

"Sister Fox. Please let me in for the night."

"We're cramped enough as it is without you."

"I'll not take up much room. I'll lie down on a bench, curl my tail up underneath and put my rolling-pin under the stove."

So they let her in. And she lay down on the bench, curled her tail up underneath and put the rolling-pin under the stove.

Sister Fox was up before dawn. She burnt the rolling-pin and then cried,

"What have you done with my rolling-pin? Give me a chicken in return."

There was nothing the peasant could do and he gave her a chicken to replace the rolling-pin.

Sister Fox took the chicken and went on her way, singing,

"As Fox was walking one day, look!
She came across a rolling-pin,
And for the pin she took a hen."

Soon she came to another village.

"Knock-knock-knock."

"Who's there?"

"Sister Fox. Please let me in for the night."

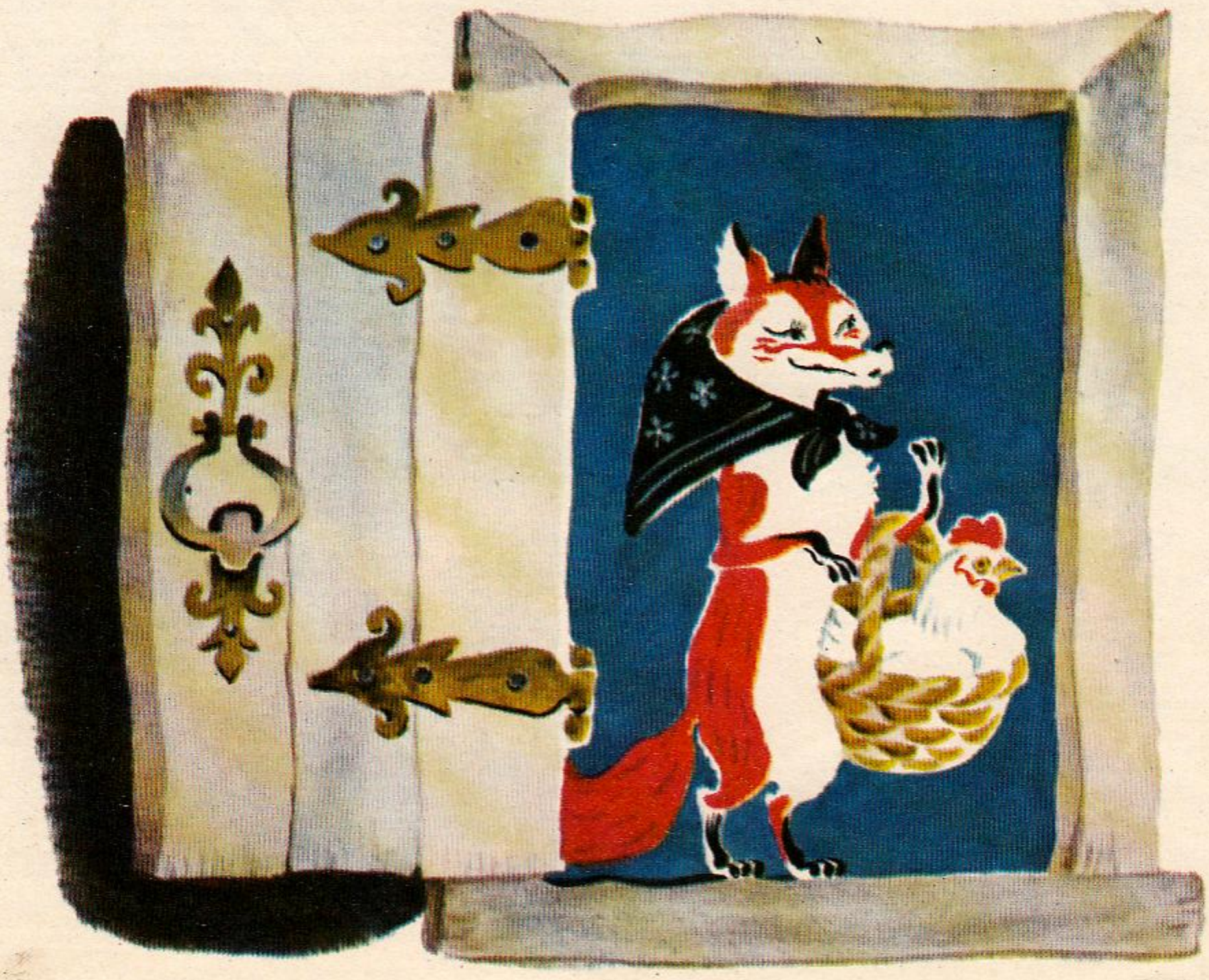
"We're cramped enough as it is without you."

"I'll not take up much room. I'll lie down on a bench, curl my tail up underneath and put my chicken under the stove."

So they let her in. And she lay down on the bench, curled her tail up underneath and put the chicken under the stove.

Sister Fox got up very quietly before dawn, seized the chicken, gobbled it up and after a while said,

"What have you done with my chicken? Give me a goose in return."



Sister Fox took the chicken and went on her way, singing,

"As Fox was walking one day, look!
She came across a rolling-pin,
And for the pin she took a hen."

Soon she came to another village.

"Knock-knock-knock."

"Who's there?"

"Sister Fox. Please let me in for the night."

"We're cramped enough as it is without you."

"I'll not take up much room. I'll lie down on a bench, curl my tail up underneath and put my chicken under the stove."

So they let her in. And she lay down on the bench, curled her tail up underneath and put the chicken under the stove.

Sister Fox got up very quietly before dawn, seized the chicken, gobbled it up and after a while said,

"What have you done with my chicken? Give me a goose in return."

So Sister Fox took the goose and went on her way, singing,

"As Fox was walking one day, look!
She came across a rolling-pin,
And for the pin she took a hen,
And for the hen a goose she took."

Towards nightfall she came to the third village.

"Knock-knock-knock."

"Who's there?"

"Sister Fox. Please let me in for the night."

"We're cramped enough as it is without you."

"I'll not take up much room. I'll lie down on a bench, curl my tail up underneath and put my goose under the stove."

So they let her in. And she lay down on the bench, curled her tail up underneath and put the goose under the stove.

When it was just getting light Sister Fox jumped up, seized the goose, gobbled it up and then said,

"What have you done with my goose? Give me one of your little girls in return!"

But the peasant didn't want to give his little girl away. So he put a big dog in a sack and gave it to Sister Fox with the words,

"Here's the little girl for you, Sister Fox."

So Sister Fox took the sack, made her way to the road and said,

"Sing me a song, little girl."

At this the dog in the sack started to growl fiercely. Sister Fox was so terrified that she let dropped the sack and ran off. The dog jumped out of the sack straight away and set off after her.

Sister Fox ran and ran with the dog at her heels until she finally dived into a lair at the foot of a tree-stump. She sat there and said,

"Now then, Ears, what have you been up to?"
"We've been listening hard all the time."
"And what about you, Legs? What have you been doing?"
"We've been busy running."
"And you, Eyes?"
"We've been looking the whole time."
"And what have you been up to, Tail?"
"I've been busy getting in your way as you ran."
"I see, you've been getting in my way, have you. Just you watch out, I'll give you what for!" And with that she thrust her tail out of the lair.
"There you are, Dog, eat my naughty tail."
And the dog seized Sister Fox by her bushy tail, dragged her out of the lair and started to give her a good shake.

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A Russian Folk Tale

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